Mr. Richard Gallen
14 E 60 St.,
New York, N.Y.

2/28/76

Dear Dick,

This is a combination status rather than progress report. It is also to tell you of what plans I can now make for coming to New York 3/15 or 16.

The only writing I have done since I wrote you is a new end to the last chapter of part two that leads into the beginning of part three. I wrote that, part three's open, on the bus to Washington beginning 7 a.m. day before yesterday. I hope I can read it! I had an engagement to make a speech in Detroit, which gives me cash with which to pay a typist if I can find one. But the plane was so early I decided to go to DC the day before and work and get my supports that Dr. Segal recommended checked. They were made improperly and are being replaced. I then also got the government's alleged answers to interrogatories in the FOIA suit for more "new evidence." I worked on it on the plane to and from Detroit and I've just finished making notes for the draft of an affidavit in response. I will be locking horns with the FBI again and again under oath. They may find it expedient to defend themselves by saying of the King assassination, too, that I know more about it than anyone in the FBI. Natch. I forced the early retirement of their experts, and this is a quotable (as on a jacket)court record.

The third part has taken firmer shape in my mind and when I have finished this draft and prior to my lawyer's reading and redrafting of it I'll be writing again. Not later than day after tomorrow, I hope. (There were 40 interrogatories and all answer not false or none responsive are evasions.)

The next calendar call is scheduled for the 15th. It will require that I go to Washington and when I do not now drive that distance I may as well go to New York because I have to speak at Hunter College the 17th, in the afternoon. We have asked the government to have material ready for me to examine after the hearing on the 15th. If they do I'll work on it. If they do not I'll go to New York after the hearing. If I do go on the 15th I'll be working at Dell on the 16th. They have agreed to let me go over the records because they did not supply an accounting or an explanation of what as a supposed substitute they did supply. If I do not go on the 15th I'll work on this after the 17th, as I may have to anyway. Bair's substitute for an accounting includes what is not in any of the semi-annual statements and if, as I have never believed, there was any basis for claiming the running of the statute tolls it.

My problem will be staying where I will not depend on subways because I do not think all those stairs are a good thing for me now. I have not given this thought yet. It is complicated by what may coincide, long phone conversations with Playboy, which has hired me as a consultant. That money serves as an immediate protection against an emergency and if, happily, there is none, as a means of reprinting a book. However, with the possible need of long use of the phone it may be better to stay at a hotel not to impose on anyone. Can you recommend an inexpensive and conveniently-located one that is not a flea-bag and not too far from surface transportation to Dell? (I'll probably spend the night before the speech with a friend who is on the same program and has asked me to.)

Perhaps you would like to discuss what I've written to now?

I'm thinking I'm going to work in a chapter of undiluted ridicule of the FBI - in peace, war, political assassinations, criminal investigations and in court. They claim not even to have a picture of the scene of the crime! What they do not claim but I've discovered, they fired 22 other rifles, of three different calibres, while saying that Ray's alone fired the fatal shot. Not to have conducted tests the conducting of which they have given me proof. On and on. Even not to have pictures I can identify by frame number and describe.

If you want to discuss what I've written and if you think it might interest Jill perhaps the evening of the speech, the 17th, would be best.

This is also an unwinding letter. Going over the raw meat the FBI gave me is for me what Acupulco Gold is to a pot smoker. I'm too turned on to be able to sleep and it is time for me to go to bed. So, I'll add an account of my reception by the first all-black student audience I've addressed and my first speech on the King assassination. I intend this as a possible indication of the blacks market.

I saw no non-black student at the college. There was none in the audience. There was one white faculty member only. I presume that in a community college in Detroit I will encounter as high a percentage of the militant young as anywhere.

They went for it big. It was, in terms of responsibility, the best audience I have ever had. There was not a single frivolous or irrespondible question. No suggestion of what is this honky trying to tell or pull off on us. When questions were asked that in honest response meant criticism of blacks I was honest. And accepted.

It went so well the dean came up to me afterwards to praise and give me his card so I could use him as a reference for other black colleges and to offer to write any letters I might want. The white Maryland student who went with me as a sort of apprenticeship for him and protection for me said he wouldn't have missed it for anything. He has not been able to turn his black peers on.

This gives no indication of the possible attitude of the black establishment, but I think it may be a dependable indication that non-establishment and especially young blacks are ready for this book and will buy it.

Best,